

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

B1 ~~Disclosed is an~~ An image processing apparatus for reducing image deterioration caused by a saturated area of an image signal obtained from an image sensor. Specifically, an image signal output from a CCD has a saturated portion that is ~~thereof~~ detected by a saturation detector and has red, green and blue ~~R, G, B~~ signals separated from it by a color separation unit. Prescribed processing is then applied to obtain color ~~Color difference signals are obtained by applying prescribed processing.~~ A signal indicative of the saturated portion is stored in a FIFO memory and is subsequently read out. A control signal generator then generates a control signal with ~~having~~ a prescribed waveform at the periphery of the saturated portion, and the control signal is also stored in a memory. The control signal is then read out of the memory and is applied to a suppression signal generator, which outputs a suppression signal. Finally, a ~~A~~ suppression circuit suppresses the color difference signals in conformity with the prescribed ~~above-mentioned~~ waveform.